

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
Legal Affairs Division

Emissions Units Exemptions
(LAC 33:III.2117) (AQ263)

Under the authority of the Environmental Quality Act, R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the secretary gives notice that rulemaking procedures have been initiated to amend the Air regulations, LAC 33:III.2117 (Log #AQ263).

No regulatory mechanism exists for permanently exempting emissions units from portions of LAC 33:III.Chapter 21 if strict conformity with applicable provisions would create an unreasonable risk to health, welfare, or safety. This rule will establish a regulatory basis for permanently exempting emissions units from applicable provisions if strict conformity would create an unreasonable risk to health, welfare, or safety. Approval of such an exemption will not be implied, but must be expressly granted in writing by the department. Currently, such an exemption can be provided by means of a variance issued in accordance with LAC 33:III.917 and 2119. However, per R.S. 30:2056(C), a variance cannot be granted for a period of time greater than one year. This rule is also being proposed as a revision to the Louisiana State Implementation Plan for air quality. The basis and rationale for this rule are to establish a regulatory mechanism to allow the department to permanently exempt emissions units from the control of emissions of organic compounds when conformity with applicable provisions would create an unreasonable risk to health, welfare, or safety.

This proposed rule meets an exception listed in R.S. 30:2019(D)(2) and R.S. 49:953(G)(3); therefore, no report regarding environmental/health benefits and social/economic costs is required. This proposed rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

A public hearing will be held on July 25, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in the Galvez Building, Oliver Pollock Conference Room, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The hearing will also be for the revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) to incorporate this proposed rule. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments on the proposed amendments. Should individuals with a disability need an accommodation in order to participate, contact Judith A. Schuerman, Ph.D., at the address given below or at (225) 219-3550. Free parking is available in the Galvez Garage with a validated parking ticket.

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulation. Persons commenting should reference this proposed regulation by AQ263. Such comments must be received no later than August 1, 2006, at 4:30 p.m., and should be sent to Judith A. Schuerman, Ph.D., Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, Box 4302, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4302 or

to FAX (225) 219-3582 or by e-mail to judith.schuerman@la.gov. Copies of this proposed regulation can be purchased by contacting the DEQ Public Records Center at (225) 219-3168. Check or money order is required in advance for each copy of AQ263. This regulation is available on the Internet at www.deq.louisiana.gov under Rules and Regulations.

This proposed regulation is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; 1823 Highway 546, West Monroe, LA 71292; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 1301 Gadwall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615; 111 New Center Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508; 110 Barataria Street, Lockport, LA 70374; 645 N. Lotus Drive, Suite C, Mandeville, LA 70471.

Herman Robinson, CPM
Executive Counsel

Title 33
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Part III. Air

Chapter 21. Control of Emission of Organic Compounds

Subchapter A. General

§2117. Exemptions

A. – Table ...

B. If, upon written application of a responsible official, the administrative authority finds that strict conformity with any provision of these regulations would create an unreasonable risk to health, welfare, or safety, the administrative authority may provide an exemption from that provision to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage. Approval of such an exemption is not implied, but must be expressly granted in writing by the administrative authority.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2054.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Air Quality and Nuclear Energy, Air Quality Division, LR 13:741 (December 1987), amended LR 16:118 (February 1990), amended by the Office of Air Quality and Radiation Protection, Air Quality Division, LR 20:289 (March 1994), LR 21:681 (July 1995), LR 21:1330 (December 1995), repromulgated LR 22:14 (January 1996), amended LR 22:703 (August 1996), LR 23:1661 (December 1997), LR 24:22 (January 1998), LR 25:258 (February 1999), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, LR 31:1062 (May 2005), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 32:**.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES LOG #: AQ263**

Person
Preparing
Statement: Bryan D. Johnston Dept.: Department of Environmental Quality

Phone: (225) 219-3118 Office: Office of Environmental Services

Return
Address: P.O. Box 4313 Rule Title: Emissions Units Exemptions
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313 (LAC 33:III.2117)

Date Rule Takes Effect: Upon Promulgation

SUMMARY

(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

There will be no costs or savings to state or local governmental units as a result of this rule.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

There will be no effect on revenue collections of state or local governmental units.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

There will be no costs and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons or non-governmental groups. LDEQ anticipates extremely limited use of this exemption. Currently, the agency is aware of only one situation which warrants such an exemption, and in this instance, its approval will not result in an increase in emissions.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

There will be no effect on competition; no effect on employment in the public or private sector will be realized.

Signature of Agency Head or Designee

Legislative Fiscal Officer or Designee

Herman Robinson, CPM, Executive Counsel
Typed Name and Title of Agency Head or Designee

Date of Signature

Date of Signature

LFO 03/09/2001

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

The following information is requested in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriate legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberation on the proposed rule.

- A. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and a copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of both the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

LAC 33:III.2117.B, proposed in this rule, will establish a regulatory basis for permanently exempting emissions units from portions of LAC 33:III.Chapter 21 if strict conformity with applicable provisions would create an unreasonable risk to health, welfare, or safety. Approval of such an exemption will not be implied, but must be expressly granted in writing by LDEQ. Currently, such an exemption can be provided by means of a variance issued pursuant to LAC 33:III.917 or 2119. However, per R.S. 30:2056(C), a variance cannot be granted for a period of time greater than one year.

- B. Summarize the circumstances which require this action. If the Action is required by federal regulation, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

No regulatory mechanism exists for permanently exempting emissions units from portions of LAC 33:III.Chapter 21 if strict conformity with applicable provisions would create an unreasonable risk to health, welfare, or safety.

- C. Compliance with Act II of the 1986 First Extraordinary Session

- (1) Will the proposed rule change result in any increase in the expenditure of funds? If so, specify amount and source of funding.

No, this proposed rule will not result in any increase in the expenditure of funds.

- 2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

(a) ____ Yes. If yes, attach documentation.

(b) ____ No. If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time.

This question is not applicable.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

WORKSHEET

I. A. **COSTS OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED**

1. What is the anticipated increase (decrease) in costs to implement the proposed action?

No costs or savings to state agencies are anticipated as a result of this proposed rule.

COSTS	FY 05-06	FY 06-07	FY 07-08
PERSONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-
OPERATING EXPENSES	-0-	-0-	-0-
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	-0-	-0-	-0-
OTHER CHARGES	-0-	-0-	-0-
<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-
MAJOR REPAIR & CONSTR. POSITIONS (#)	-0-	-0-	-0-

2. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "A.1.", including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

There are no costs or savings associated with the proposed rule. No increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork is anticipated.

3. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

SOURCE	FY 05-06	FY 06-07	FY 07-08
STATE GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED	-0-	-0-	-0-
DEDICATED	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS	-0-	-0-	-0-
<u>OTHER (Specify)</u>	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-

4. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

No funds are required to implement the proposed action.

B. COST OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED.

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustments in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

No impact on local governmental units is anticipated.

2. Indicate the sources of funding of the local governmental unit that will be affected by these costs or savings.

There are no costs or savings to local governmental units; as such, no funding is needed.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT WORKSHEET

II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

- A. What increase (decrease) in revenues can be anticipated from the proposed action?

There will be no effect on revenue collections of state or local governmental units from the proposed action.

REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE	FY 05-06	FY 06-07	FY 07-08
STATE GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED	-0-	-0-	-0-
RESTRICTED FUNDS*	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS	-0-	-0-	-0-
LOCAL FUNDS	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-

*Specify the particular fund being impacted.

- B. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenues shown in "A." Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

No increase or decrease in revenues will be realized.

III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

- A. What persons or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effect on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.), they may have to incur as a result of the proposed action.

All facilities subject to the air quality regulations (LAC 33:III) will potentially be affected by the proposed action. However, no effect on their costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork, is expected.

LDEQ anticipates extremely limited use of this exemption. Currently, the agency is aware of only one situation which warrants such an exemption, and in this instance, its approval will not result in an increase in emissions.

- B. Also provide an estimate and a narrative description of any impact on receipts and/or income resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

No impacts on receipts or income will result.

IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

There will be no effect on competition. No effect on employment in the public or private sector will be realized.